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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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RCDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RETIREMENT – REPLACEMENT ANNOUNCED

Richland County Development Corporation Executive Director Mary Heitzig has announced her retirement effective December 31, 2008, ending a ten year term in Olney. Her career spans 37 years in the profession of economic and community development. Under Ms. Heitzig's leadership, Olney, Illinois was recognized as one of the top small towns for business in America for three consecutive years – 2002, 2003 and 2004. Olney was included on the elite list of Top 100 U.S. Small Towns as rated in Site Selection magazine, an influential national economic development publication. In 2002, Mary was awarded The Distinguished Economic Developer of the Year Award at the Illinois Development Council statewide conference.

The RCDC board would like to recognize Mary's accomplishments in the field of economic development in southeastern Illinois and thank her for the contributions she has made for the betterment of our community. The board wishes Mary all the best in her retirement years.

With the announcement of Heitzig's retirement, the RCDC Board is happy to announce the hiring of Brandi Stennett to fill the position of Richland County Development Corporation Executive Director.

Brandi Stennett has held the position as Economic Development Director for the City of Mt. Carmel for the past three years. Previous to joining Mt. Carmel Mrs. Stennett was the Executive Director at the Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission, serving seven counties here in Southeastern Illinois. Mrs. Stennett is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Springfield with a B.A. in Legal Studies. She and her husband Jason are natives of Southeastern Illinois and have two children, Marcus and Mackenzie.

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(Attach photo of both Mary and Brandi)